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News from Local Congregations

The **United Church of Cookeville, UCC**, is pleased to announce that following a nation-wide search, on February 8th they **called Paige Pearson** to serve as their full-time pastor beginning March 1, 2009. Paige, a graduate of Candler School of Theology was ordained in 2004, and has served in chaplaincies since that time. The congregation also announced that they purchased their building after having rented it since they organized five years ago.

Brookmeade Congregational UCC, Nashville announced that Lauryn Ross, a member of the church has left to work for several months with **Anil and Theresa Henry** at the **Christian Hospital in Mungeli, India**. The Henry's are member of the congregation. The church has supported Lauryn's trip with fundraisers and special offerings.

Anil Henry has been in touch with us to say that two groups have visited the Mungeli hospital from **Sandy Springs Christian Church** (the host of the upcoming Southeast Conference Annual Meeting) over the last two months.



Holy Trinity Community UCC, Nashville, with the leadership of Tony England, is the organizer of the Upper Room Fellowship which is hosted in the UCC congregations of Nashville on a rotating basis. The next gathering will take place from 5:00–7:00 at **First United Church of Christ, Nashville**, and features Associate Conference Minister **Kathy Clark**. On Saturday, May 16th, the Fellowship will gather at **Howard Congregational UCC**, and the featured speaker will be Conference Minister **Tim Downs**. The next gathering will be October 17th, and will feature Associate Conference Minister **Cameron Trimble**.

Cliff Aerie, of the Proclamation, Identity and Communication Ministries of the UCC in Cleveland has alerted us to a tour by the **Oikos Jazz Ensemble** in Tennessee. On Friday, March 6th, they will be playing a Jazz Vespers service at **Brookmeade Congregational UCC**, on Saturday morning March 7th and again on Sunday morning March 8th, a Mission Jazz Concert at **Pleasant Hill Community UCC**, and finally on Sunday, March 8th an evening jazz worship at **Holy Trinity Community UCC**, Nashville.

Thank you to the Following Pledging Congregations to OCWM Basic Support!

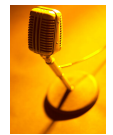
We have sent a pledge form to each of the congregations of the Southeast Conference and have **received forms back from the following churches, totally over \$100,000:**

Pilgrim Congregational UCC, Birmingham
Deer Lodge Congregational UCC, Deer Lodge, TN
Pilgrimage UCC, Marietta, GA
Pleasant Hill Community UCC, TN
First Congregational UCC, Talladega
Trinity Congregational UCC, Athens, AL
Union United Church of Christ, Tougaloo, MS
United Church UCC, Cookeville, TN
Garden of Grace UCC, Columbia, SC
Peace Congregational UCC, Clemson, SC

If you do not see your congregation listed above, contact Gerri at



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Stay in touch with the work of our national Justice and Witness ministry. Click [here](#) to support this ministry.



ghudson@secucc.org, and ask for a pledge form. Please help us as we continue to plan and budget for 2009.

Posted on February 27, 2009

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Conference News and Announcements



On January 31st the first of the Awareness/Education meetings concerning the plans of a financial campaign for the future of the mission and ministry of the Southeast Conference was held with **First Congregational Christian UCC, Birmingham, AL** serving as host. 21 leaders and pastors were present. From Montgomery we welcomed **Unity UCC and Community Congregational UCC**. Present from Birmingham were **Beloved UCC, and Pilgrim Congregational UCC**. **United Church UCC, Huntsville** was represented, as was **Pleasant Hill Community UCC**. A Power Point was shown and considerable discussion followed as to the focus and purpose of the campaign. The feedback received was significant in helping us continue to shape the case for support. Leaders of the event included **Barbara Everett**, a member of **Pleasant Hill Community UCC, TN**, and **Vanessa Robbs**, Moderator of the Conference, and member of **Pilgrim Congregational UCC, Chattanooga**. From the Conference staff **Tim Downs** and **Cameron Trimble** were present. Representing the Board of Directors were **Dorinda Broadnax** of **Community Congregational UCC**, and **Debora Murray** of **Unity UCC**, both in Montgomery.

The **Southeast Conference** continues its exploration of the **feasibility of a campaign to support the mission and ministry of the Conference** in an additional four Awareness/Education Meetings Those meetings have been scheduled on Saturdays at beginning at 11:00A as follows:

- February 28, 2009 **Holy Trinity Community UCC, Nashville**
- March 14, 2009 **Central Congregational UCC, Atlanta**
- March 28, 2009 **Pilgrim Congregational UCC, Chattanooga**
- April 18, 2009 **Midway Congregational UCC, Midway, GA**

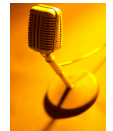
Following a presentation and discussion, there will be a lunch served. All ministers and leaders of the Conference are encouraged to attend one of these meetings. Please contact Gerri at ghudson@secucc.org to make reservations for a meeting of your choosing if you have not already. There will be no solicitation! We will continue to evaluate the feedback we have received and prepare to bring a recommendation to the floor of the Annual Meeting of the Conference concerning a financial campaign for the future of the mission and ministry of the Southeast Conference.

The **2009 Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference UCC** will be held in the Atlanta area June 11-13. Our theme will be "Transforming Churches Transforming Lives", with a variety of workshops designed to equip churches for vitality in their ministries. We are pleased to announce that we will be hosted by **Sandy Springs Christian Church**, in the near Northern tier of Atlanta. **Sandy Springs Christian Church** is a member of the **Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)** an ecumenical partner of the UCC. We hope to celebrate this relationship as a part of the meeting. UCC congregations of the Atlanta area will be called on to host the meeting. Please circle the dates in your calendar, and look for details as the plans develop. We know that we will be welcoming as a keynoter **Steve Sterner**, the **Acting Executive Minister of Local Church Ministries of the UCC**, and a member of **Central Congregational UCC, Atlanta**. Other keynoters will be announced once confirmed.

The **Annual Meeting of the Georgia-South Carolina Association** will be held on Saturday, **April 4th**, and hosted by one of our newest churches, **Garden of Grace UCC, Columbia, SC** (www.goguucc.com). The theme of our keynoter, Associate Conference Minister **Kathy Clark** will be "Ministry—for Such a Time as This". The meeting will start at 9:00A and end at 1:30P. Breakfast and lunch will be served. The



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Association will also conduct an **Ecclesiastical Council for Ben Rose**, a candidate for ordination, a member of **Central Congregational UCC**, and hospice chaplain. Registration and details have been mailed to all the churches, and are available on line at www.secucc.org, at the upper right of the home page.

The Alabama-Tennessee Association announces its **Annual Meeting** to be held April 24-25, also hosted by one of our newest congregations, Holy Trinity Community Church, UCC, in Nashville. The event will begin on Friday evening at 4:00P and conclude with lunch on Saturday. The theme? Ministry—For Such a Time as This"! The keynoter for the occasion is **Marti Baumer**, recently retired from the faculty of **Eden Theological Seminary**; Marti has been working closely on the Ministry Issues Pronouncement Implementation. Worship will be led by Holy Trinity Drama Team. Registration and information have been sent to all congregations, and is also available on line. You can register and pay on line by going to www.secucc.org, and you will find the information at the top right of the home page.

Summary of January 24th Board of Directors Meeting

The **Board of Directors of the Conference** took the following actions at its meeting:

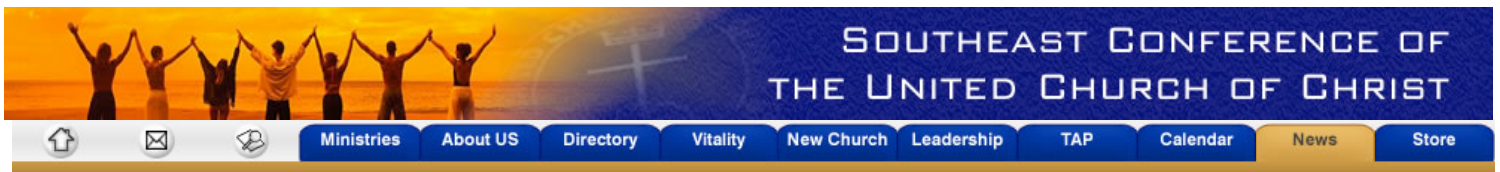
- Reviewed the 2008 Treasurer's Report and celebrated the increase of Our Church's Wider Mission) OCWM Basic Support in 2008 over 2007.
- Approved a Preliminary 2009 Budget for the Southeast Conference that includes a deficit of \$80,000 at this time.
- Received a report on the campaign to support the future mission and ministry of the Conference.
- Reviewed and approved the decision to discontinue the publication of *Voices and Visions*
- Approved the renewal the appointment of the Advisory Committees for TAP (Theology Among the People) and new Church Development, and the Ministry Task Force of the Conference.
- Approved a **"Friends of the Conference" Campaign** to give people opportunities to make individual contributions to the ministries of the Conference, and to OCWM. The first step of the Campaign will be to recruit 100% participation from the Board members themselves.
- Received an enthusiastic report from the TAP Advisory Committee about its work and expansion. The Committee reported the growth of the program, and the increasing number of classes that are being held on line.

Circle your calendars for a work camp organized by the Southeast Conference Disaster Assistance Relief Team, November 29–December 5, 2009. We need 40 people to go to Biloxi MS to assist Back Bay Mission with their continued work to rebuild lost homes from Hurricane Katrina. The cost to the volunteers will be \$100 for lodging and food for the week. Start to recruit groups from you church! For details contact Connie Waidmann at cbwaidphtn@frontiernet.net or by calling (931) 277-5529.

Posted on February 27, 2009

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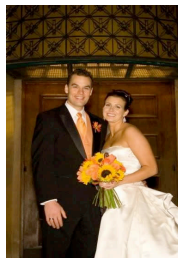
Concerns and Celebrations

We received news that **Alan Roof** has been called to serve on the **Board of Directors of the United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministries** for a six year term. Alan, a member of **Central Congregational UCC**, Atlanta, and a chaplain at Shepherd Rehabilitation Hospital in Atlanta, has a long history of engagement in the area of disabilities ministries.



and look forward to a ministry in rural churches.

We are pleased to announce that **Allen Hollis** was installed as the interim pastor of **Riverview Christian Church in Valley AL**, on February 8th. Allen has been granted Ordained Ministerial Partnership by the Alabama Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Present at the service were Conference Minister **Tim Downs**, and Regional Minister for the Alabama Region, **John Mobley**, who preached. Allen is remembered as having served over the years at **First United Church of Christ, Nashville**, and **United Church UCC, Huntsville**.



With our apologies, we included the happy news in our last newsletter of the wedding of **Lillian Hallstrand**, a student in care of the Alabama-Tennessee Association, and member of Brookmeade Congregational UCC, Nashville. We did not however, include this lovely photograph.

Bob and Beth Hurst led a group tour of Egypt and Israel, leaving in early February. Bob is the pastor of **United Church, Huntsville (UCC)**. The tour was to explore interfaith themes, and to talk about the possibilities of peace between the West and the Islamic world.

Linda Smith, a member of **Central Congregational UCC**, Atlanta, reports to us that she continues in a ministry which has taken her to many settings of human need. She lectures at the Emory School of Nursing on issues of spirituality, and works with a multi-disciplinary team providing care in local assisted living centers nursing homes and residences for Compassionate Care Hospice.

Phil Price, a UCC minister, recently granted ordained ministerial partnership by the Georgia Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and serving as pastor of **Sandy Springs Christian Church**, in the Atlanta area, informed us of the death of his mother following a brief period of illness. Her funeral was held in the beginning of February. Phil served as interim minister at Central Congregational UCC, Atlanta last year.

Lawrence Clark, recently retired, and serving part-time in a small Presbyterian congregation in the Nashville area, alerted us to the sudden passing of his mother at the end of January. Lawrence is a member of **Brookmeade Congregational UCC, Nashville**.

Many of you are aware of the death of **Millard Fuller**, the founder of Habitat for Humanity on February 3rd. However, some do not know that Millard was raised in the **Congregational Christian Church of Lanett**, a UCC congregation, and credits the United Church of Christ for opening his life and heart to the world and its needs as a young man. Millard became a millionaire by the age of 29, and then gave up all of his



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possessions and moved with his wife Linda to the legendary Koinonia Farm in Americus, GA, the leader of which was Clarence Jordan.

I have sent a notice to many in the Conference concerning **the death of “Billy” Andes, on January 26th**. Billy was a dearly loved Conference Minister of the Southeast Conference serving us early in our history. He lived in Elon, NC in retirement.

If there is news that you wish to have shared with others in the Southeast Conference family, please contact Tim at tdowns@secucc.org.

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